

House of Representatives Passes Legislation to Overhaul Defense Contracting

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed an amendment authored by Rep. John Hall (NY-19) to improve Congressional oversight and transparency of Pentagon procurement programs. The amendment was to H.R. 5013, the IMPROVE Acquisition Act, a bill that will clean up defense acquisition spending and save taxpayers an estimated \$27 billion a year. Rep. Hall's amendment passed by a unanimous vote and H.R. 5013 passed soon after by a vote of 417 to 3.

H.R. 5013, the Implementing Management for Performance and Related Reforms to Obtain Value in Every Acquisition (IMPROVE) Act is a bipartisan effort to increase accountability and oversight of non-weapons defense acquisition procedures. Congressman Hall stated on the House floor that only 20% of DOD procurement funds go to weaponry. "80 percent goes to equally important contracts for things like healthcare supplies, safety equipment, uniforms and the common everyday items our soldiers need, services which everyone from soldiers in the field to cadets at West Point rely on everyday," Hall said. "This amounts to **more than one billion dollars a day**

. Taxpayers are getting nowhere near \$1 billion a day in value," he said.

Rep. Hall's amendment to the IMPROVE Act would accomplish two things. First, it requires the DOD include the performance assessments required by H.R. 5013 in an annual report to Congress. Second, it requires the DOD to quickly report to Congress when an audit finds major problems with a procurement system.

The amendment strengthens the critical oversight provisions in the IMPROVE act designed to clean up waste, fraud and abuse in the defense acquisition system. The bill makes the acquisition process more competitive and more accessible to small businesses and would require the DOD to develop meaningful consequences for failed procurement systems. It also seeks to implement standards the DOD can use to assess contractor performance, and it would finally create an auditable financial management system at DOD.

"It's been too easy for DOD to ignore poorly performing contractors," Hall said. "My amendment will allow prompt knowledge of the worst offenders and help Congress to provide better oversight and keep track of DOD's progress in rooting out wasteful spending. Our soldiers serving overseas and here at home deserve no less. Their safety, comfort and health depend on it."

Rep. Hall serves on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and chairs the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

To see a video of Rep. Hall's speech on the floor of the House of Representatives, click here: http://johnhall.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1049&Itemid=96

